

Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 21 December 1989

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This is the last *Statistics Weekly* to be released in 1989. The first issue for 1990 will be released on Thursday, 11 January.

Merry Christmas and best wishes for 1990

Most industries record low growth in September quarter

Most Australian industries recorded relatively low growth in the September quarter, according to trend estimates of gross product at average 1984-85 prices.

Mining (up 2.8%), and Electricity, gas and water (up 2.6%) were the only industries to record growth in excess of 0.6 per cent, and the overall growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was 0.5 per cent.

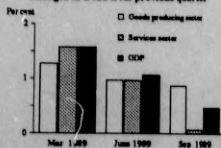
GROSS PRODUCT AT 1984-85 PRICES, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1989
Trend estimates

	Gross product (\$ million)	Percentage change from	
		Previous quarter	Corresponding period of previous year
Agriculture, etc	2,279	0.3	5.3
Mining	4,721	2.8	4.6
Manufacturing	11,205	0.3	6.8
Electricity, gas and water	2,328	2.6	6.4
Construction	4,577	0.2	6.6
Wholesale and retail trade	9,826	0.2	6.6
Transport, storage and communication	4,914	0.5	2.4
Finance, property and business services	7,129	0.6	5.8
Public administration and defence	2,407	0.1	-0.9
Community services	7,493	-0.9	2.9
Recreation, personal and other services	2,367	0.3	0.6
Other (ownership of dwellings, import duties, etc.)	4,134	1.2	7.9
Gross Domestic Product	63,380	0.5	5.1

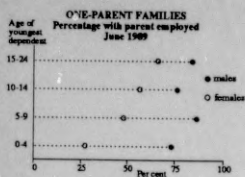
For the economy as a whole, the 0.5 per cent growth in GDP follows successively lower increases of 1.9 per cent, 1.6 per cent and 1.1 per cent in the preceding quarters.

As the graph shows, this decline in the growth rate is mainly in the services sector.

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT AT 1984-85 PRICES
Change in trend from previous quarter



Note that the above measurements and the graph are based on 'industry revalued' estimates of GDP. Such figures may differ from 'expenditure revalued' estimates of constant price GDP such as those reported in the 7 December issue of *Statistics Weekly* in an article on the September quarter *Australian National Accounts: National Income and Expenditure* (5206.0) release. However, both ways of measuring GDP are currently showing similar trend movements for recent quarters.



Nine out of ten sole parents are women

In June 1989, almost 90 per cent of the more than 330,000 sole parents in Australia were women.

The great majority of female sole parents were either employed (45%) or not in the labour force (nearly 50%), leaving just over five per cent unemployed. Of those employed, 55 per cent were employed full time.

In comparison, 80 per cent of men who were sole parents were employed; of these, almost 95 per cent were employed full time.

ONE PARENT FAMILIES, JUNE 1989
'000 families

	Parent employed	Parent unemployed	Parent not in the labour force	Total
Male parent	30.0	2.0	5.5	37.4
Female parent	135.9	16.2	140.7	292.9
Total	165.9	18.2	146.2	330.3

Information on one-parent families in Australia, as well as on married-couple and other families, is now available in *Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, Australia, June 1989*.

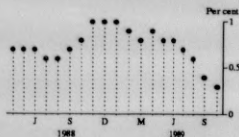
Other figures in the publication show:

- ☐ The proportion of married-couple families in which both partners were employed was 54 per cent where dependents were present, compared with 39 per cent where there were no dependents present.
- ☐ In 92 per cent of married-couple families with only one partner employed, the employed person was the husband.

Statistics on people who were not members of a family are also available. For example:

- ☐ Just over 70 per cent of women living alone were aged 55 years and over; of men living alone less than half were in this category.
- ☐ Of persons who were not living alone, the proportion of persons not in the labour force was higher for persons born overseas than for those born in Australia and higher still for persons born outside English-speaking countries.

MONTHLY CHANGE IN RETAIL TURNOVER
Trend series



Retail growth may have peaked

Australian retail turnover fell by 1.5 per cent in the month of October in seasonally adjusted terms.

Retail trade has thus resumed the negative growth which was interrupted by a high 2.5 per cent seasonally adjusted increase in September.

The trend series now indicates a weak rate of growth averaging 0.4 per cent per month for the past three months.

Only an unusually high increase in the November figure would reverse this moderating trend.

Influencing the trend is the easing in growth of two of the major retail industries — Grocers, confectioners, etc. (averaging a moderate 0.7% trend growth over the three months to October) and Hotels, liquor stores and licensed clubs (averaging 0.4%). Also contributing is the Clothing and fabrics stores industry which has displayed a declining trend since March 1989.

In contrast, Department and general stores averaged a relatively strong trend growth rate of 1.0 per cent over the three month period. Unlike the other major retail categories however, Department and general stores had suffered a declining trend in the early part of calendar 1989.

For further information, order the publication *Retail Trade, Australia* (8501.0) or contact *Maurie Low* on (062) 52 7442

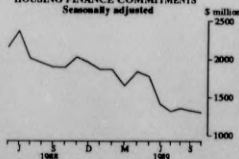
Home finance fall continues

The amount of housing finance committed in October fell by 3.2 per cent on the September figure, after adjustment for seasonal factors.

The decline follows a 2.4 per cent fall in the previous month. At \$1,298.8 million (seasonally adjusted) the October figure was 31.3 per cent below the amount lent in the same month last year.

The table below shows how different sections of the housing market have shared in this decline.

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS
Seasonally adjusted



HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS, OCTOBER 1989
Seasonally adjusted

Purpose of commitment	\$ million	Percentage change from	
		Previous month	Corresponding month of previous year
Established dwellings	981.7	-3.3	-32.9
Construction of dwellings	262.8	0.3	-17.9
Purchase of newly-erected dwellings	54.4	-16.7	-48.7
Total	1,298.8	-3.2	-31.3

Because housing finance statistics tend to be irregular, reliable trend estimates can be made only for the period to three months before the latest monthly estimates. Currently therefore, the trend estimate extends to only July — and it has shown a consistent downward trend in the level of commitments since June 1988.

For further information, order the publication *Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia* (5609.0) or contact Mark Dennis on (062) 52 7117

Housing commencements collapse

Builders started work on nearly 8,000 fewer dwelling units in the September quarter 1989 than in the previous quarter, in seasonally adjusted terms.

This drop of 17 per cent (see table) was due to significant falls in commencements of private sector houses in Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia.

DWELLING UNIT COMMENCEMENTS
September Quarter 1989

	Private sector houses		Total dwelling units	
	Number	Percentage change on previous quarter	Number	Percentage change on previous quarter
Original figures	26,430	- 16	38,380	- 11
Seasonally adjusted	25,420	- 20	36,410	- 17

The September quarter decline in housing starts is broadly consistent with building approvals data for the period, released earlier this year. However it is greater than expected, suggesting that a significant number of approved dwellings have not yet been commenced.

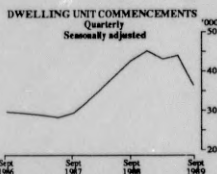
For further information, order the publication *Building Activity, Australia* (8750.0) or contact Paul Seville on (062) 52 6067

Input-Output tables

Publications containing the Australian input-output tables for 1983-84 are scheduled for release on Thursday 21 December. Amongst other information, they provide:

- ☐ details of the supply and use of commodities in the Australian economy
- ☐ inter-industry flow tables for 108 industry groupings
- ☐ details of Australian production, imports and exports for 1,400 commodities

For further information, order the publications *Australian National Accounts, Input-Output Tables* (5209.0) and the *Australian National Accounts, Input-Output Tables (Commodity Details)* (5215.0) or contact Annette Barbetti on (062) 52 6908



Inquiries

The ABS supplies statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order (including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

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SA (08) 237 7100
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Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

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Statistics Weekly
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All the week's releases: 13 to 19 December

General

Time Series Service, September Qtr 1989 (Available on magnetic tape and microfiche only) (1311.0; Choice of priced packages)
Statistics Weekly, 14 December 1989 (1318.0; \$3.50)
Economic Indicators, Qld, December 1989 (1307.3; \$4.50)
Queensland at a Glance, 1990 (1312.3; free)
Economic Indicators, WA, December 1989 (1307.5; \$3.00)
Summary of Statistics, NT, September Qtr 1989 (1305.7; \$7.50)

Census of Population and Housing

Census 86 — Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in Qld (2510.3; \$10.50) — *new issue*

Demography

Marriages, Vic., 1988 (3307.2; \$7.00)
Estimated Resident Population by Age and Sex in Statistical Local Areas, SA, June 1988 (3204.4; \$7.50)

Social statistics

Child Care Arrangements, Qld, June 1987 (4402.3; \$7.50)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Australian National Accounts: Gross Product, Employment and Hours Worked, September Qtr 1989 (5222.0; \$7.50)
Balance of Payments, Aust. — Historical Series on Microfiche (1 July 1959 Onwards), September Qtr 1989 (5337.0; \$13.00) — *final issue*
Imports, Aust., Monthly Summary Tables, October 1989 (5433.0; \$7.50)
Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Aust., October 1989 (5609.0; \$7.50)
Public Unit Trusts, Aust., September Qtr 1989 (5645.0; \$7.50)
Company Profits, Aust., September Qtr 1989 (5651.0; \$4.50)

Labour statistics and prices

Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, Aust., June 1989 (6224.0; \$11.50)
Average Weekly Earnings, States and Aust., August 1989 (6302.0; \$8.00)
Price Indexes of Copper Materials, Aust., November 1989 (6410.0; \$3.25)
House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities, September Qtr 1989 (6416.0; \$25.00)

Agriculture

Apples and Pears in Cool Stores, Vic., November 1989 (7323.2; \$3.00)
Livestock Products — Meat, Qld, October 1989 (7204.3; \$3.00)

Secondary industry and distribution

Retail Trade, Aust., October 1989 (8501.0; \$8.00)
Motor Vehicle Hire Industry, Aust., 1986-87 (8652.0; \$7.50) — *new issue*
Building Activity, Aust.: Dwelling Unit Commencements, September Qtr 1989, Preliminary (8750.0; \$4.50)
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, NSW, August 1989 (8741.1; \$7.50)
Manufacturing Establishments: Details of Operations, Qld, 1987-88 (8203.3; \$11.50)
Tourist Accommodation, Qld, September Qtr 1989 (8635.3; \$12.00)
Tourist Accommodation, Major Hotels and Motels, Qld, November 1989 (8646.3; \$5.00)
Building Approvals, Qld, October 1989 (8731.3; \$8.00)
Building Approvals — Private Sector, Perth Statistical Division, November 1989 (8732.5; \$3.00)
Tourist Accommodation Indicator, Major Licensed Hotels and Motels, SA, November 1989 (8646.4; \$5.00)
Tourist Accommodation: Selected Establishments, ACT, October 1989 (8646.8; \$5.00)

Transport

Shipping and Air Cargo Commodity Statistics, Aust., March Qtr 1989 (9206.0; \$11.50)
Road Traffic Accidents Involving Fatalities, Aust., November 1989 (9401.0; \$3.00)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the month to 18 January 1990

December

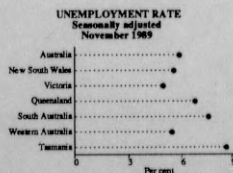
- 20** Export Price Index, Aust., October 1989 (6405.0; \$4.50)
Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, October 1989 (6407.0; \$8.00)
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, October 1989 (6408.0; \$3.25)
- 21** Production Statistics, Aust., November 1989, Preliminary (8301.0; \$4.50)
- 22** Balance of Payments, Aust., November 1989 (5301.0; \$10.00)
Quarterly Indexes of Manufacturing Production, Aust, September Quarter 1989. (8219.0; \$4.50)

January

- 8** Job Vacancies and Overtime, Aust., November 1989 (6354.0; \$10.00)
Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Aust., October 1989 (6411.0; \$8.50)
Price Indexes of Articles Produced By Manufacturing Industry, Aust., October 1989 (6412.0; \$6.00)
Building Approvals, Aust. November 1989 (8731.0; \$8.50)
- 9** Private New Capital Expenditure, Aust., Actual and Expected
Expenditure to June 1990, September 1989 Survey (5626.0; \$8.50)
Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Aust., Preliminary, November 1989 (9301.0; \$4.00)
- 11** The Labour Force, Aust., Preliminary, December 1989 (6202.0; \$8.50)
The Labour Force Aust. — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, December 1989 (6271.0; \$60.00)
- 17** Import Price Index, Aust., September Quarter 1989 (6414.0; \$4.00)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to
19 December 1989



	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (June qtr 89)*	20.8	11.7	13.1	3.5	6.3	78.0	n.a.	n.a.	15.9
Retail turnover (Oct. 89) (trend estimate)	13.5	4.4	11.1	4.9	12.5	9.7	n.a.	6.2	9.6
New motor vehicle registrations (Oct. 89)*	9.5	3.0	14.7	2.0	-6.4	n.a.	12.0	74.3	7.7
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Oct. 89)	-5.1	-32.8	-23.9	2.2	-40.0	-3.0	-38.8	-14.7	-21.7
Value of total building work done (June 89)	38.6	42.1	34.4	22.9	54.9	17.4	-8.5	-3.0	36.8
Employed persons (Nov. 89)*	4.2	4.7	7.7	2.5	4.0	6.4	7.4	5.9	4.8
Capital city consumer price index (Sept. qtr 89)	8.1	8.3	7.8	7.6	7.8	7.2	7.0	5.6	8.0
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (August 89)	10.6	6.9	5.8	7.6	5.8	6.7	4.5	7.5	8.0
Population (June 89)	1.1	1.3	3.2	1.1	3.0	0.6	0.2	1.6	1.6
Room occupancy rates in licensed hotels and motels, etc (June qtr 89)	-3.5	-0.7	-12.6	1.5	3.5	4.5	0.9	-10.0	-3.9

* Seasonally adjusted for States (but not Territories)

Key national indicators – consolidated to 19 December 1989

			Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on		
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year	
Period							
National production							
Gross domestic product	— current prices	\$m	Sept. qtr 89	89,803	89,733	1.8	13.0
	— 1984-85 prices	"		63,334	63,732	0.7	5.4
Industrial activity							
New capital expenditure	— current prices	\$m	Sept. qtr 89	7,100	7,355	0.0	20.2
	— 1984-85 prices	"		5,496	5,701	-1.8	18.3
Expected new capital expenditure		"	Three months to Dec. 89	8,454	n.a.	n.a.	11.3
Retail turnover	— current prices	"	Oct. 89	6,720	6,789	-1.5	7.9
	— 1984-85 prices	"	Sept. qtr 89	14,280	14,788	0.9	5.0
New motor vehicle registrations		No.	Oct. 89	51,184	51,995	-5.9	7.7
Dwelling unit approvals		"		12,190	11,460	-7.9	-25.2
Value of all building approvals		\$m	"	2,517	2,464	2.2	14.4
Value of total building work done	— current prices	"	June qtr 89	7,622	7,711	7.6	36.9
	— 1984-85 prices	"		5,138	5,198	4.7	21.1
Manufacturers' sales		"	June qtr 89	34,261	34,196	3.4	14.6
Expected manufacturers' sales		"	Six months to Dec. 89	70,922	n.a.	n.a.	12.0
Labour							
Employed persons		'000	Nov. 89	7,870.7	7,842.8	0.5	4.8
Unemployment rate †		%	"	5.4	5.9	-0.1	-0.8
Participation rate †		"	"	63.3	63.5	0.2	1.2
Job vacancies		'000	August 89	64.3	n.a.	-12.1	-2.3
Average weekly overtime per employee		hours	"	1.5	n.a.	1.6	10.7
Prices, profits and wages							
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0		Sept. qtr 89	197.0	n.a.	2.3	8.0
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industry	1984-85 = 100.0		Sept. 89	117.7	n.a.	-1.3	4.3
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1968-69 = 100.0		"	550.7	n.a.	0.3	6.5
Company profits before income tax		\$m	Sept. qtr 89	4,846	4,667	-3.6	14.1
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)		\$	August 89	508.40	n.a.	1.5	8.0
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)							
90-day bank bills †	% per annum		Oct. 89	18.35	n.a.	0.0	4.3
10-year Treasury bonds †				13.55	n.a.	-0.1	1.7
Balance of payments							
Exports of merchandise		\$m	Oct. 89	3,989	4,090	-0.3	17.1
Imports of merchandise		"	"	4,740	4,338	-6.5	11.4
Balance on merchandise trade (c)		"	"	-751	-248	53.8	38.2
Balance of goods and services (c)		"	"	-1,171	-598	29.1	-7.6
Balance on current account (c)		"	"	-2,242	-1,657	14.2	-17.6
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0		Sept. qtr 89	n.a.	108.2	-2.8	3.0
Foreign investment							
Net foreign debt		\$m	30 Sept. 89	110,329	n.a.	1.9	14.7
Net foreign liabilities		"		147,716	n.a.	3.5	15.1
Exchange rates (monthly average)							
\$US	per \$A		Oct. 89	0.7749	n.a.	0.4	-4.2
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0		"	60.1	n.a.	-0.8	-1.2
Other indicators							
Population (estimated resident)	million		June 89	16.8	n.a.	0.4	1.6
Overseas visitors	'000		Oct. 89	174	165	-9.8	-15.2

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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